

SUB A1)

1 1. A transmission system, comprising:  
2 a data management module capable of managing data flow; and  
3 a transmitter module coupled to a transport medium and to the data  
4 management module, the transmitter module having at least one predefined transmission  
5 characteristic, wherein the data management module modifies its data flow management  
6 based on at least one characteristic of the transmitter.

1 2. The transmission system of claim 1, further comprising at least an  
2 additional transmitter module.

1 SUB A2) 3. The transmission system of claim 2, wherein each transmitter is associated  
2 with a different transport medium.

1 4. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the transmission  
2 characteristic of the transmitter module varies over time.

1 5. The transmission system of claim 1, further comprising an interface  
2 between the data management module and the transmitter module.

1 6. The transmission system of claim 5, wherein the interface includes an API  
2 interface.

1 7. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the transmission  
2 characteristic includes a data flow rate of the transmitter module.

1 8. The transmission system of claim 7, wherein the data flow rate is adjusted  
2 to compensate for delays in the transmitter module.

1 SUB A3) 9. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the data management module  
2 continues to receive the transmitter's transmission characteristic and to adjust the data  
3 flow management if the transmission characteristic changes.

1 10. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the data management module  
2 combines digital data with television data to transmit over the transport medium.

1 11. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the transport medium  
2 includes a medium selected from the group consisting of an airwave transmission, a cable  
3 transmission, a satellite transmission, a digital television transmission, and a computer  
4 network.

1 <sup>SUB A4</sup> 12. The transmission system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter's transmission  
2 characteristic is retrieved by the data management module at startup of the transmitter  
3 module or data management module.

1 13. The transmission system of claim 12, wherein the data management  
2 module and transmitter module continue to exchange data including the transmitter's  
3 transmission characteristic after startup.

1 14. A transmission system comprising:  
2 a data management program capable of assembling data;  
3 a transmitter capable of receiving data from the data management program  
4 and transmitting the data to a transport medium; and  
5 a communication interface between the data management program and  
6 the transmitter that enables the data management program and transmitter to negotiate the  
7 type of communication to be performed based on the type of transport medium used.

1 15. The transmission system of claim 14, wherein the assembled data includes  
2 digital data and television data.

1 16. The transmission system of claim 14, further comprising at least another  
2 transmitter coupled to at least another transport medium.

1 17. The transmission system of claim 16, wherein the transport media have  
2 different transmission characteristics.

1 18. The transmission system of claim 17, wherein the data management  
2 program modifies its management of data flow to the transmitters based on the  
3 transmitters' transmission characteristics.

1 <sup>SUB AS</sup> 19. The transmission system of claim 18, wherein the data management  
2 program and transmitters exchange information on a continued basis.

1 20. The transmission system of claim 16, wherein the transport media have  
2 different data flow rates.

1 21. A computer-readable medium storing a program executable by a computer  
2 in a transmission system including a transport medium, the program comprising  
3 instructions for causing the computer to:  
4 identify at least one transmission characteristic of the transport medium  
5 over which data is to be transmitted by a transmitter module; and  
6 modify data flow management based on the identified at least one  
7 transmission characteristic.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, the program further  
2 comprising instructions causing the computer to identify a transmission characteristic of  
3 at least another transport medium over which data is to be transmitted by at least another  
4 transmitter.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the transport media  
2 have different transmission characteristics.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the program  
2 includes the transmitter and a data management module.

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1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the data  
2 management module and transmitter exchange information relating to the transport  
3 medium's at least one transmission characteristic.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the data  
2 management module and transmitter exchange information on a continued basis.

1 27. A method of managing data flow over a transport medium in an interactive  
2 transmission system, comprising:  
3 identifying at least one transmission characteristic of a transmitter used to  
4 transmit data over the transport medium; and  
5 modifying data flow management based on the identified at least one  
6 transmission characteristic.

1 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising identifying a transmission  
2 characteristic of at least another transmitter used to transmit data over a different  
3 transport medium.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein the transmitters associated with the  
2 different transport media have different transmission characteristics.

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1 30. The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one transmission  
2 characteristic of the transmitter is identified on a continued basis.

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